

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-28 (canceled):

Claim 29 (previously presented): A method of treating or preventing dental caries, dental plaque, and periodontal infection in humans or animals comprising administering to the oral cavity of a human or animal one or more lactic bacteria that are one or more of the strains CNCM I-1984, CNCM I-1985, CNCM I-1986, CNCM I-1987, or LMG P-18997.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of claim 29, wherein the lactic bacteria have been genetically modified to have improved adherence to the pellicle of the teeth by insertion of the X17390 gene, the X14490 gene, or the X53657 gene.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method of claim 29, further comprising administering the lactic bacteria in combination with one or more of milk, fermented milk, milk derivatives, or bacteriocin.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method of claim 31, wherein the milk derivative comprises one or more of a caseino-glycomacropeptide, micellar casein, fluorinated micellar casein, or renneted milk.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of Claim 29 wherein the lactic bacteria that are used for treating or preventing dental caries are administered by way of a composition that contains the lactic bacteria in an amount of 10^4 to 10^9 cfu/g in order to provide the pH of at least 5.5 when the composition is administered to the oral cavity of a human or animal.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the composition further contains one or more of milk, fermented milk, or a milk derivative.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method of claim 34, which further comprises a bacteriocin in an amount of 0.00001 to 50 percent by weight of the composition.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method of claim 35, wherein the composition includes a milk derivative comprising one or more of a caseino-glycomacropeptide, micellar casein, fluorinated micellar casein, or renneted milk in an amount of at least 0.1 percent by weight of the composition.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the composition further comprises one or more of an oil soluble antioxidant or an abrasive.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the composition is in the form of a toothpaste, mouth rinse, gum, spray, beverage, candy, infant formula, ice cream, frozen dessert, sweet salad dressing, milk preparation, cheese, quark, yogurt, acidified milk, coffee cream or whipped cream.